

Remember the Sabbath

William J.D. Shaw Updated: Oct 6, 2022

1. Introduction

A simple statement in scripture, that most people and Churches feel that they can interpret as they please is that of "Remember the Sabbath". This document examines the meaning of the words with context along with other scripture in order to give an accurate interpretation of the meaning. Five main stream groups of Christian Churches of today say the Sabbath was changed to Sunday from Saturday and that the rules that originally applied have been done away with. The other or sixth main stream Church of today keeps the seventh day of the week Sabbath and keeps it in the manner that it was given. In the seventh Christian Church existing today, the one that is almost invisible, the one that has little strength, it also keeps the seventh day Sabbath, but also follows the entire Bible and keeps the Holy Days of God, as well as much more. In today's time there are 7 groups of Christian Churches and Yeshua (Jesus) writes 7 letters to the 7 Churches in the book of Revelations, coincidence ? Not a Chance ! These letters are a last call to repent and walk properly before it is too late, a call to the six main stream Christian Churches of today. It becomes too late once the Tribulation starts.

2. Examination of the Words of Exo 20:8

Starting with the word "Remember" the Strong's Number is H2142 and means to mark so as to be recognized, to make mention of, to be mindful, to recount, to record, to bring to remembrance, to think on.

In order to gain more insight into the meaning of that word we go to the Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon. It parallels Strong but also adds the following, recall, to keep in our mind the words of Moses, instructions through the prophet, commandments and to do them, His covenant, to keep in remembrance. These are definitions at a deeper level that what we obtain only from Strong's Number.

The scripture goes on to tell is to "keep" the Sabbath Holy.

Exo 20:8 Remember ^{H2142} the (^{H853}) sabbath ^{H7676} day, ^{H3117} to **keep** it holy. ^{H6942}

We need to go to Exo 20:6 where the word "Keep" is defined by Strong's Number H8104. That definition is to protect, to guard, to observe, to preserve.

To read in context Exo 20:6 is telling us that these are commandments. They are not optional, they are commands to man that are to be followed. Keeping the commands from God are man following in obedience and submission to God's instructions. They are proper action on man's part in the manner in which he walks.

Exo 20:6 And shewing^{H6213} mercy^{H2617} unto thousands^{H505} of them that love^{H157} me, and keep^{H8104} my commandments.^{H4687}

Commandments, H4687, are collectively the Law, ordinance, precept. They are the Torah, everything in the first five books of the Bible.

Exo 20:8 is clear, not only is one to bring into the mind to think and reflect on the Sabbath, but one is to keep it, to obey it and treat it as Holy, as directed to us by God. In this Chapter of Exodus, God is giving His instructions of what His people are to follow. The scripture below defines how one is to keep the Sabbath.

Exo 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exo 20:10 But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

Exo 20:11 For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

These instructions are for God's people, all of them, Gentiles as well as Israelites. They apply equally to all, they apply in today's time as they did when originally given. So if you are one of God's people, then you need to keep them, to walk in them. There is no scripture in the entire Bible that tells us the Sabbath was changed to another day or done away with. It is only man that tells others of these lies and deceptions.

These instructions are reinforced throughout the Bible, consider the following scriptures.

Exo 31:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Exo 31:13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it *is* a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that *ye* may know that I *am* the LORD that doth sanctify you.

Exo 31:14 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it *is* holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall **surely be put to death**: for whosoever doeth *any* work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Exo 31:15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh *is* the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth *any* work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

Exo 31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for* **a perpetual covenant**.

Exo 31:17 It *is* a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Exo 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

The LORD tells us the Sabbath is to be kept forever, Exo 31:16 above. It is a sign of God's people. In times past, those of God's people that did not keep the Sabbath, were put to death, Exo 31:14 above as well as the following.

Num 15:32 And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that

gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

Num 15:33 And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.

Num 15:34 And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

Num 15:35 And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall **stone him** with stones without the camp.

Num 15:36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Understand also that the Sabbath is one of the Holy Day of God, not of man's, not of the Israelites, but God's. The weekly Sabbath is the first Holy Day of God. This is clear in the following verses.

Lev 23:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Lev 23:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even* these *are* **my feasts**.

Lev 23:3 Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work *therein*: *it is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

The weekly Sabbath is not a Jewish tradition; it is the first Holy Day Feast of God.

If one says that the Sabbath and Laws were only for the Israelites, then carefully read the following.

Num 15:14 And if **a stranger sojourn with you**, or whosoever *be* among you in your generations, and will offer an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD; as ye do, so he shall do.

Num 15:15 **One ordinance** *shall be both* **for you** of the congregation, and **also for the stranger** that sojourneth *with you*, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as ye *are*, so shall the stranger be before the LORD.

Num 15:16 **One law** and one manner shall be **for you**, and for **the stranger** that sojourneth with you.

Num 15:29 Ye shall have **one law** for him that sinneth through ignorance, *both for* him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.

We are clearly told that there is "One Law" for the Israelite and for the stranger or sojourner that follows the LORD. If you accept and follow Christ, there is One Law that is given for all mankind. It is the Law of Heaven and it will come down and be carried out on earth, by a rod of iron, during the Millennium.

Mat 6:10 **Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

In the New Testament, some of the branches of the domestic olive tree were broken off, being some of the Jews, and then the Gentiles, being wild olive trees, were grafted in. All the branches are supported by the same root, Abraham Isaac and Jacob the Patriarchs. This also tells us that there is One Law for all, Israelite or Gentile.

3. The Sabbath in the New Testament

To examine the weekly Sabbath, one must be able to read scripture in proper context. In order to do this, three questions must first be asked and answered. These are; who is speaking, who is being spoken to, what did it mean to that society at that point in time. Then one reads scripture above and below as far as necessary to gain the understanding.

Read the following scripture to examine what is being said.

Mat 12:10 And, behold, there was a man which had *his* hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

Mat 12:11 And he said unto them, **What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift *it* out?**

Mat 12:12 **How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.**

Mat 12:13 Then saith he to the man, **Stretch forth thine hand.** And he stretched *it* forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

Mat 12:14 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

It is Yeshua that is speaking, He is a Jew, He is speaking to the Pharisees who also are Jews. At that time the Pharisees and Sadducees were the ruling body over the Jews. They had a police force that arrested anyone found breaking their oral laws that were an embellishment on the Torah or the Law that was given to Moses. The arrested person was then placed in jail, brought before the ruling council, tried and if found guilty punished. This sets the understanding by looking through the eyes of the Jews. The oral law was legalistic and distorted the Law given to Moses. In the oral law a person could help an animal in distress on the Sabbath, but practicing medicine was viewed as an occupation and healing a person was conducting work when done on the Sabbath. Yeshua was chastising them for distorting God's Laws and not following the intent of those laws. Yeshua was showing them that one is required to help others on the Sabbath when it presents itself. Man is more important than a sheep or animal.

Looking at these scriptures in a broader context, Yeshua was keeping the Sabbath. Yeshua did not need to tell those present to keep the Sabbath as they were all following the Torah and keeping the Sabbath. Yeshua was not speaking to the Gentiles who knew nothing of the Torah or the Sabbath.

By example Yeshua was showing us how to walk, if we truly follow Yeshua we walk as best we can to the way he walked. Then we keep the seventh day Sabbath. Those that say they follow Yeshua and do not keep the Sabbath lie.

4. The Law in the New Testament

Keeping the Sabbath is one of the commands listed in the Laws or Torah. The word Law is defined by Strong's Numbers G3551 and H8451, both tell one it is the Laws given to Moses by God, and the Hebrew word that describes it is Torah. This is everything in the first 5 books of the Bible. It includes what we are to do and also what we are not to do, blessings and curses. It includes the Feasts of the Lord, the Statutes. It includes the Judgments, the right rulings. It includes the clean and unclean food Laws. A concise definition of Torah is; *Instruction designed to teach us the truth of God*. It points the way in how we are to walk, to grow and mature as children of God.

If one does not accept the Strong's Numbers and their definition, consider the following scriptures.

Deu 31:25 That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying,

Deu 31:26 Take this **book of the law**, and put it **in the side of the ark** of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.

God's word tells us that the legal document for the covenant, the 10 commandments that are written on 2 tablets of stone, are placed inside the Arc. The Torah is placed in the outside of the Arc.

Now read the following scriptures in proper context. These are given to us directly from Yeshua.

Mat 5:17 Think **not that I am come to destroy the law**, or the prophets: I am **not come to destroy**, but to fulfil.

Mat 5:18 For verily I say unto you, **Till heaven and earth pass**, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, **till all be fulfilled**.

Mat 5:19 Whosoever therefore **shall break one of these least commandments**, and shall teach men so, **he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven**: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Yeshua is speaking, He is speaking to Jews following Him. All the Jews present were raised in the Torah, they accepted it and walked in it. They knew if they broke any of the oral laws, that were an embellishment of the Torah, that they would be arrested and punished. If they thought Yeshua said the Law no longer applies, they would have left Him and reported Him.

The first verse, Mat 5:17, tells us **twice** that Yeshua did not come to destroy or do away with the Law. The word "fulfil" can have two different and opposite meanings from Strong's Number. It can be to do away with or to teach how to walk in it. Yeshua came to teach us how to walk in the Torah. The 6 main stream Christian Churches of today, say Yeshua completed the Law for us and therefore it is no longer required. They do not read in proper context, nor with logic. They follow erroneous preconceived ideas that are not supported in scripture, rather that following God's word.

Next consider Mat 5:18, this is a prophecy that tells us the Torah is in full effect until a future time when the present heaven and earth are destroyed and also until all prophecy is fulfilled.

Recognize this scripture is given to us directly from Yeshua. This occurs at the end of man walking on earth, at the Last Day, Judgment Day, the Second Resurrection, the time the New Heavens and New Earth and New Jerusalem are created.

Finally the third verse, Mat 5:19, tells us of a penalty for anyone breaking the least of the commands and teaching others to do the same. They will be at the bottom of society in Heaven. Yes there is a societal hierarchy in the New Jerusalem.

Consider the following verse from Yeshua that reinforces these 3 verses above.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

These tell us the current Heaven and Earth pass away. There are other scriptures that tell us the same action takes place.

To read the above 3 scriptures, Mat 5:17-19, in proper context, we are being told by Yeshua that He came to show us how we are to walk in the Torah. One must read with logic to obtain a correct understanding. Logic tells us that first, the Torah is in effect up to the Last day, second, these scriptures are a reinforced command to us from Yeshua.

If you truly follow Yeshua you keep the Torah in today's time.

5. Summary

First, the Sabbath was never changed or done away with. Second, the Law or Torah has never been done away with. The only doctrine one is to follow is that of scripture itself as found throughout the entire Bible, both Old and New Testaments. We are not to follow what man say's, unfortunately Church doctrine has been developed in a manner that goes against God's instructions to us. Those in the 6 main stream Churches of today are unable to let go of their preconceived ideas that are wrong.

Very few people read God's word in proper context and even fewer truly follow Yeshua. The theme or main purpose of the Book of Revelations is given specifically to those people alive and that will be going through the Tribulation. It is a last call by Yeshua in His letters to the 7 Churches, they are to repent and correct themselves as described in His letters, to each of the Churches. Logic tells us there are exactly 7 groups of Christian Churches existing in today's time. We are quickly approaching the start of the Tribulation with only a few years left. Six main stream Churches of today do not follow the Torah, they all say it was done away with and no longer applies. Only one Christian Church of today follows the Torah, keeps the faith of Yeshua and has patience in their walk. They are the ones that have little strength, they are nearly invisible to the world, very difficult to find. The other 6 main stream Churches are prominent easily found Churches and these are destined to go through the Tribulation unless they repent and walk forward properly.

God's word tells us that all that accept Yeshua and walk forward in obedience are grafted into the domestic olive tree, whose roots are that of the Hebrews patriarchs. The wild olive trees are the Gentile Nations throughout the world. All that are grafted in partake of the roots of the tree. All become one in the commonwealth of Israel. One Law for all.

The last book of the Old Testament and the last Chapter is warning man of the coming wrath of God upon the entire world, telling man to change and repent and to walk forward according to God's Laws before it is too late. This is the last prophecy and word from God until the arrival of Yeshua roughly 400 years later. The wrath of God is the days of sorrow and the Tribulation.

Carefully examine the following verse from Malachi.

Mal 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, *with* the **statutes** and **judgments**.

Today man has been given free will choice. In the coming Millennium that starts at the end of the Tribulation, man no longer has free will choice. Those living in the Millennium are required to keep the Torah, to walk in it. It is enforced by Yeshua and the Saints with a rod of iron throughout the entire world over the entire Millennium.

* *